

CLAIMS

1. A television display unit (1) comprising a receiver (3,4,5) for a plurality of channels of television signals,
5 means (7) for displaying signals of a television channel,
means (3,4,5) for inputting signals of another television channel,
means (8) for displaying one channel as a reduced image additional to the main display in the on-screen-display plane.
- 10 2. A unit (1) according to Claim 1 comprising means (8) to effect real-time decoding for displaying one channel as a rendered image in the on-screen-display plane.
3. A unit (1) according to Claim 2 comprising means (8) to effect
15 time-sharing of the signals for decoding.
4. A unit (1) according to Claim 2 or 3 comprising conversion
means (8) from full-colour video pictures to palette-based pictures for reduced-
image display on the OSD plane.
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5. A unit (1) according to Claim 4 wherein the conversion means
(8) comprises quantization means (30) for the pixel values and means (31) to
add a palette entry for each palette colour not yet in the palette.
- 25 6. A unit (1) according to Claim 4 or 5 wherein the conversion
means (8) comprises means (32) to run length encode the pixels to produce
groups of comparable value.
7. A unit (1) according to Claim 6 wherein the conversion means (8)
30 comprises means (32, 33) to reduce the quantization level until attainment of a
required colour level.

8. A unit (1) according to Claim 6 wherein the conversion means (8) comprises means to map the pixels to the palette colours.

9. A television display unit (1) substantially as hereinbefore
5 described with reference to and/or as illustrated in any one or more of the Figures of the accompanying drawings.

10. A method of operating a television display unit (1) for a plurality of channels of television signals, the method comprising displaying signals of a television channel, inputting signals of another television channel, displaying
10 one channel as a reduced image additional to the main display in the on-screen-display plane.

11. A method according to Claim 10 comprising effecting real-time
15 decoding for displaying one channel as a reduced image in the on-screen-display plane.

12. A method according to Claim 10 or 11 comprising effecting time-sharing of the signals for decoding.
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13. A method according to Claim 11 or 12 comprising converting from full-colour video pictures to palette-based pictures for reduced-image display on the OSD plane.

25 14. A method according to Claim 13 wherein the converting step comprises quantizing the pixel values and adding a palette entry for each ~~palette~~ colour not yet in the palette.

15. A method according to Claim 13 or 14 wherein the converting
30 step comprises run length encoding of the pixels to produce groups of comparable value.

16. A method according to Claim 15 wherein the converting step comprises reducing the quantization level until attainment of a required colour level.

5 17. A method according to Claim 15 wherein the converting step comprises mapping the pixels to the palette colours.

18. A method of operating a television display unit (1) substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and/or as illustrated in any one or
10 more of the Figures of the accompanying drawings.

19. A computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising software code portions for performing the steps of any one or more of Claims 10 to 18 when said product
15 is run on a computer.